



# Starburst

*Your DOE-VPP News Source*

This edition of Starburst which introduces a new column on DOE-VPP activities at the national laboratories, contains a short bibliography (including Internet) on DOE-VPP, updates on Pantex and Savannah River, an Orlando conference report and coverage of the AlliedSignal flag ceremony. Future editions should appear quarterly beginning in Fiscal Year 1997.



## STAR Site Ceremony

The formal ceremony and flag raising for the **AlliedSignal, FM&T**, Plant in Kansas City, MO facility was held in Kansas City, Missouri on October 1, 1996. The site is now proudly flying its DOE-VPP Star flag. Karen Clegg, President of the site, kicked off the ceremony and flag raising. In attendance, were several dignitaries such as Dr. Tara O'Toole, Dr. Victor Reis, congresswoman Karen McCarthy, and Jim Sierk, Senior Vice President from the AlliedSignal corporate office. Additionally, the event was attended by labor representatives from both within the plant and outside; representatives from the Voluntary Protection Programs Participants' Association; DOE personnel from the local Area Office, the Albuquerque Operations Office, and the DOE-VPP headquarters team; and, OSHA representatives, among others. Additionally, plant associates gathered to join in the festivities.



## Calendar

**February 25**

**Deadline for Spring 1996  
Starburst**

**March 10-11**

**VPP Application Workshop  
in Dallas, TX  
(call VPPPA, 703-761-1146)**

## Recordkeeping Workshops - See page 2.

*Send contributions to the editor*

**Editor: Dan Marsick**

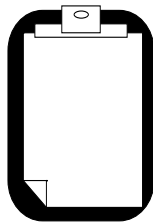
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An unofficial publication

# Recordkeeping and Reporting Workshop



The Office of Worker Health and Safety (EH-5) is planning three 2-day workshops on occupational injury and illness recordkeeping and recording. The workshop will serve as a refresher session (open discussion) on recordability issues and reporting requirements, including questionable cases, documentation and report preparation.

Dates and locations include January 28-29 in Albuquerque, NM, February 18-19 in New Orleans, LA and March 18-19 in Berkeley, CA. Attendance is limited and priority will be given to individuals with direct recordkeeping and reporting responsibilities. Registration can be made through Janet Macon, (301) 903-6096 or FAX (301) 903-8497.

## DOE-VPP Homepage

The new DOE-VPP homepage is accessible at <http://www.eh.doe.gov/VPP>. The DOE-VPP team is continually adding to and upgrading the home page. Though the team has not completed its full home page modifications, we have started to upload more recent documents to the new home page. This process may take up to two months. Starburst will be available electronically as are the DOE-VPP program documents.



# 12<sup>th</sup> Annual VPPPA Conference

September 17-20, 1996

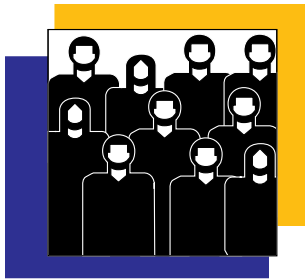
What did you miss? Workshops on the DOE-VPP Application Process and DOE-VPP Onsite Review. Workshops by industry representatives on employee involvement, hazard identification, safety training, ergonomic solutions, safety meetings, workplace violence, process safety management, safe shutdowns, small businesses, emergency response and more. And a caucus where DOE contractors shared successes, ideas, concerns, and suggestions for involvement with each other and DOE-VPP Headquarters representatives.

The DOE Presentations, "DOE-VPP Application Process" and "What to Expect in a DOE-VPP on-site Review" both received good to outstanding reviews and had turn-away crowds. The caucus, which was led by our two STAR contractors, generated requests to continue this type of activity. Topics discussed at the caucus included:

- Lack of constancy in CSO personnel reviewing applications.
- Contractor ownership of applications impinged by editorializing from reviewers
- How HQ will deal with applicants having "unique" situations - like a security contractor?
- Contractors have not adequately involved their local DOE offices early in their process.
- Several items regarding having subcontractors meet DOE-VPP criteria: service vs. operations subcontractors, overriding DOE contractual requirements, etc.
- Timeliness of application review process.
- Provide information to site on team members, including qualifications and clearances, early enough to allow for planning and right of refusal.
- Formalized post-review lessons learned document with input from DOE and contractor.
- Expand teams to include folks from STAR sites and other contractors in DOE-VPP process. Teams should be bigger and stay longer. Observers might be OK with right of refusal.
- More information needed on how sites with multiple contractors should apply.
- There are great variations in funding available to contractors for DOE-VPP implementation.

A new DOE-VPP display board drew hoards who gathered in every document carried to the conference and generated a long list of requests for additional documents. Conference attendees were very positive to the new "Starburst". National lab representatives from Los Alamos and Argonne are anxious to pursue the Headquarters offer of starting a working group for labs interested in DOE-VPP. Lab folks at INEL are also interested.

The 13th Annual VPPPA conference will be in Hilton Riverside, New Orleans, LA from September 9 - 12, 1997. Hope to see you there!



# Happenings

## NORTHWEST

**Nancy Hammond**  
**301-903-1731**

(WA,OR,ID,MT,ND,SD,WY,UT,CO)  
Employee safety and health were the focus of a two-day workshop sponsored by **Lockheed Martin Idaho Technologies Company** (LMITCO) and the Department of Energy (DOE). *"Managing Safety Through Change"* was held on November 13-14, 1996, at the Shilo Inn in Idaho Falls. The Workshop provided a working forum for key DOE and contractor Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) participants to share experiences and hear from companies that have received recognition for world class safety performance.

Dr. Tara J. O'Toole, Assistant Secretary for Environment, Safety and Health, was the keynote speaker. Other speakers included John M. Wilczynski, Idaho Operations Office Manager; Joseph E. Fitzgerald, Jr., Deputy Assistant Secretary for Worker Health and Safety; and W. John Denson, LMITCO President. The Industry Panel. "Maintaining Emphasis on Safety During Downsizing" was presented by Robert Brant, formerly with Mobil Chemical; Stephen Brown, Potlatch Corporation; Daniel Hoyt, Rohm & Haas, Philadelphia Plant; and Conrad Watkins, Monsanto Chemical. Other speakers and presenters came from the Albuquerque Operations Office, AlliedSignal/Federal Manufacturing and Technologies, Bechtel Petroleum

Operations, Fluor Daniel at Fernald, Fluor Daniel at Hanford, Mobil Chemical, Monsanto Chemical, Potlatch Corporation, Rohm and Haas and Westinghouse at WIPP.

Danny Henry of **Fluor Daniel Hanford** coordinated a VPP application workshop conducted by the VPPPA on December 5th. The one-day session featured OSHA representatives and VPP site reps as well as Lee Anne Elliott, Executive Director of VPPPA.

The **Kaiser-Hill Team at Rocky Flats**, in cooperation with the Rocky Flats Field Office, has continued to make progress on improving the safety culture at Rocky Flats. Thirteen major programs have been identified which make up the integrated safety management system and work continues in developing performance indicators which adequately represent performance in each of these programs. A rating system, based upon the Eastman Kodak system, has also been developed to support quantitative measurement of the safety culture as a whole.

Ongoing activities which support performance improvement in the 13 programs include:

- A quarterly safety awards program in which 33 employees with no safety disciplinary actions or recordable incident during the quarter are randomly selected and given a gift;
- Bi-monthly articles in the site newspaper;
- Preparation of site-wide safety meeting kits;
- Preparation of a monthly safety report which provides performance trends and analyses; and
- Development of the site-wide Behavior Based Safety Program.  
(Submitted by Rhonda Hunt, 303-966-5263)

## NORTHEAST/ MIDWEST

**Dan Marsick 301-903-3954**

(NY,NJ,MN,WI,IL,IN,MI,OH)

The WVDP (**West Valley Demonstration Project**) Safety Success Initiative, championed by the Safety Steering Committee, integrates all site safety programs into a single focused program that involves all employees and effectively communicates safety goals and objectives to everyone.

Programs supported by the Safety Success Initiative include:

- **Site Safety Store**, in which individual employees can give immediate recognition for exhibiting safe behavior to a fellow employee;
- **"I Walk the Safety Talk"** management safety recognition program, where as management is nominated by their staff and with the concurrence of their department, the manager is recognized;
- **Site Safety Culture Survey**, a rewarded survey eliciting safety culture from employees;
- **ABCs of Safety**, a safety-related non-mandatory training;
- Voluntary Protection Program
- **Safety Observers**  
(Submitted by Paul Szalinski, 716-942-4518)

At **Fluor Daniel in Fernald**, there are two major accomplishments:

1. We have just completed a review of our expanded draft VPP application with over 50% of our Safety First Work Groups. They reviewed the application to let us know if what we said is actually true and to identify other



items that should be included in the application. Our path forward from this activity is to provide responses to comments from the employees and work groups who reviewed the application, to obtain additional information from Safety First Work Groups to complete the VPP application, and to address the areas of improvement noted during the review process.

2. We now have a formal mentor site! It is Bayer in Addyston, Ohio. We were able to have good discussions with them at the VPPPA conference in Orlando, Fla. and have some good ideas as to how they can best be used to help us along in our VPP process. (Submitted by Audrey Hannum, 513-648-4332)

**Brookhaven National Laboratory** has joined the VPPPA outreach program and been paired with IBM in Endicott, NY. BNL visited the IBM facility to gain some first-hand experience on how they become a VPP site. In turn, another Division of IBM, the Research and Development Division is also working toward VPP and is planning a visit to BNL in November to see how BNL's ESH programs fit into an R&D environment. This three-way partnership should provide valuable information for making improvements for all three organizations. In reviewing the criteria to become a VPP site, BNL has already made some significant improvements its worker safety program. These improvements are focused on enhancing the employees' involvement and managements' commitment for worker safety issues. One of the major focuses is to increase the participation of the bargaining unit personnel. This has been encouraged by having representatives from the International brotherhood of Electrical Workers and ES&H personnel attend the VPPPA conference in Orlando. This allowed a fresh look at how other organiza-

tions implemented the VPP process including the obstacles they faced and their successes. In addition, BNL has begun to open up new avenues of communication between management and employees so that everyone can play an even greater role in their safety and health. (Submitted by Steve Hoey, 516-344-7936)

## **CENTRAL**

### **Raymond Rogers 301-903-7331**

(NE,IA,KS,MO,NM,OK,AR,LA,TX)

**Westinghouse at the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant (WIPP)** mentored the Cyprus Miami Mining Corporation near Phoenix, Arizona. The Cyprus Miami Mining Corporation had an on-site visit in October 1996. They earned Merit status under the State of Arizona's VPP. (Submitted by Jayne Davis, 505-234-8499) Kudos to WIPP for making us all look good!

The **Pantex** Plant has been busy with its VPP efforts as 1996 draws to a close. In early August Pantex submitted a VPP application to the Department of Energy for consideration. It is now in EH and Pantex is awaiting the on-site review. In September, 15 members of the VPP Steering Committee attended the VPPPA conference in Orlando, Florida. Four members of the Committee, in addition to the Manager of the DOE Amarillo Area Office (DOE-AAO), made a presentation that was well-received by the 30 people in attendance. The presentation addressed the cooperation between DOE-AAO and Plant personnel, and how that has improved the safety culture at Pantex. In September; a request was made for Pantex employees to have their children 18 years old and younger submit drawings by October 23 for a coloring contest for the 1997 VPP Calendar to be distributed to all employees. This resulted in the submittal of 88 drawings. The 12 winners will receive a gift certificate, and plans are underway for all other drawings to be displayed at the back of the calendar. In October, the VPP Steering Committee distributed 2000 reflective Halloween bags for children of employees. This sends an important message to our employees that their entire family is important to Pantex. "You and Me and VPP...Reach for the Star." (Submitted by Patrice Ford at 806-477-4640)

**MK-Ferguson at the Weldon Spring Site** Remedial Action Project (WSSRAP) located in St. Charles, Missouri is host to several successful employee programs, such as "Time Out For Safety" and daily "Bluecard Checklist Surveillances".

The **AlliedSignal Federal Manufacturing and Technology/Kansas City** (FM&T/KC) site has been busy participating in various VPP-related activities. In July, Det Norske Veritas provided FM&T/KC a third party evaluation of their safety and health programs. FM&T/KC received the highest baseline score by a DNV audit. In September, FM&T/KC personnel attended the annual VPPPA conference in Orlando and presented information for workshops on the DOE-VPP Application Process, What to Expect in a DOE-VPP Onsite Review and assisted in facilitating the DOE-VPP Participants' Caucus. On October 1, FM&T/KC formally celebrated its DOE-VPP Star Status. Also in October, a representative from FM&T/KC participated in the OSHA VPP evaluation of a Georgia Pacific site in Monticello, Georgia. In addition, FM&T/KC has been meeting frequently and talking with visitors from other companies interested in pursuing the VPP including the Oak Ridge K-25 plant, M.K. Ferguson and Sandia National Labs. (Submitted by Don Fitzpatrick, 816-997-5899)

## **SOUTHEAST**

**David Smith 301-903-4669**

(KY,TN,NC,SC,GA,FL,MS,AL,VA)

The **Lockheed Martin Energy Systems** at Oak Ridge are proceeding with their DOE-VPP efforts and will report their progress in the next issue. (Submitted by Andy Griffin, 423-241-2434)

After **Westinghouse/Bechtel (Savannah River Site)** resolves some recordkeeping issues, EH will again consider an on-site review.

**Wackenhut Services, Inc. (Savannah River Site)** is the first security contractor to apply to the DOE-VPP. WSI-SRS submitted their application to DOE-SR in August 1996. The Wackenhut Services, Inc. VPP Steering Committee receives superior support from SR management and the UPGWA, United Plant Guard Workers Association, in implementing a world class safety and health environment for all employees. All supervisors attended a National Safety Council Hazard Recognition Course. The Wackenhut Services, Inc. VPP Steering Committee is involving the families of our employees through a safety coloring calendar contest. Through the efforts of empowered employees, Wackenhut Services, Inc. reduced its Lost Workday cases by 95% in 1995. (Submitted by Bennie Efirt, 803-557-6862).

## **SOUTHWEST/ WEST**

**Sanji Kanth 301-903-4516**

(CA,NV,AZ)

**Bechtel Petroleum Operations, Inc (BPOI) in Tuppman, CA.**

The company is working to address previous scoping visit issues pertaining to process safety management. The scoping visit was conducted in April 1996 by DOE-VPP HQ personnel and an OSHA engineer. BPOI is reassessing its DOE-VPP readiness in light of recent recordable injury/illness rate fluctuations. (Submitted by Kurt Brown)

**Bechtel Nevada Test Site** submitted its DOE-VPP application to the Nevada Operations Office on September 30th. Don Harvey with Defense Programs visited the site for a week in October to assist Operations Office personnel in the review of the application. The site's three previous contractor programs have been rolled into one administered by Bechtel. The company is addressing Mr. Harvey's comments from the review. (Submitted by Ruby Lopez Owens, 702-295-0953)

## **HEADQUARTERS**

**Ron Eimer 301-903-4435**

Ron Eimer, accompanied by Mike Moore, who works in HQ dealing with EH-related contracting language and performance measures, made a presentation in November to the VPPPA Board of Directors. Mr. Eimer discussed the status of the DOE-VPP. Mr. Moore's presentation covered a general explanation of the DOE contracting process and a discussion of EH performance measures. Both parties entertained questions at the end of the presentations. (Submitted by Ron Eimer, 301-903-4435)



## **Focus on Programs**

### **Contractor Programs of Note**

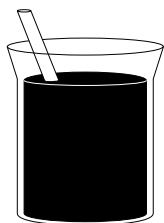
#### **Westinghouse uses Infrared Thermography to Detect Hot Spots**

Westinghouse uses infrared thermography to detect spots in electrical equipment in support of Waste Isolation Pilot Plant's (WIPP) predictive maintenance program. By scanning substations, distribution lighting panels, and electrical motors, Westinghouse maintenance electricians eliminate problems before they cause system failure. The results: A reduction in preventative maintenance jobs and the avoidance of costly operations downtime.

By taking a thermograph of site electrical panels, Westinghouse develops and reads a "heat picture" which reveals components that are overloaded or may become faulty. Unlike normal components, faulty components exhibit higher temperature profiles that are indicative of potential failure.

Thermography verifies that electrical connections are properly made and maintained. Through its usage, to date, several hot spots — mostly loose electrical connections or an unbalanced power load common to hoist transformers — have been identified.

Thermography also detects hot spots that might be overlooked by visual inspections. During one instance, Westinghouse operations interrupted the power supply to an above ground trailer when infrared test equipment detected a hot spot registering 123 degrees over ambient. A fire could have started, resulting in probable loss of valuable records and equipment, had the problem not been intercepted. This method can be extended and applied throughout the complex, once personnel complete a qualification program to use the thermography equipment. (Submitted by Maintenance supervisor Jerry Brown at 505 234-8653)



## Notes From Laboratories

University of Texas at Austin newspaper regarding the Saturday, October 19, 9: 30 AM fire in a chemistry lab on campus:

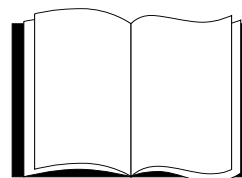
The fire began in an organic-synthetic chemistry lab used by Stephen Martin, a professor of chemistry, three graduate students and two post-doctoral fellows who work with him. Martin said the fire began after Matthew, a postdoctoral fellow, tried to dispose of sodium metal, a hazardous material that can spark fires when exposed to water. Martin said that Matthew followed safety procedures by exposing the metal to alcohol to dispose of it. He added that Matthew was unaware of the presence of a tiny amount of residual metal when he began to pour the material down the sink. "This contact is what produced what I am sure was a small, contained flame " The flame grew after Matthew tried to remove a second container of acetone, a waste solvent, that was in the sink. The acetone container tapped against the side of the sink and broke, causing the original flame to grow. Martin said the accident arose from circumstances almost all professors have experienced and that Matthew followed safety procedures before and after the fire. While Professor Martin praised University efforts to address safety concerns, he said safety cannot be fully addressed without additional funds for laboratory renovation. Besides the costs of reconstructing the lab and cleaning the smoke and water damage, Martin said the fire has resulted in a loss that cannot be assigned a monetary value. He said many research records kept in the lab were ruined as well as notes kept on current research

Completely an accident? More details on the fire and circumstances:

- The researchers left the lab and called 911 Another student, getting off of an elevator, saw fire coming through the lab door and pulled the fire alarm
- Students were still in the building unaware of what was occurring after the alarm was sounded
- This was a six-alarm fire: half of Austin's on-duty firefighting force spent 6 hours extinguishing the fire; 40,000 square feet of the building were damaged at an estimated cost of \$300,000.
- Although chemical inventories for the labs are kept electronically, the responding firefighters had no information on what chemicals were involved

- in the fire Unlabeled containers and improperly stored flammable chemicals were encountered during the fire.
- UT Austin is a state institution and is exempt from City of Austin fire code and inspections. UT Austin is subject to state fire inspections, but those inspections may not be frequent or thorough enough since there are only 10 fire inspectors for the whole state.
- All incoming students receive safety training at the beginning of each semester Chemistry department graduate students are required to attend a one day orientation emphasizing safety, and receive additional departmental safety training, including how to extinguish chemical fires (Submitted by Dan Marsick at 301-903-3954)

## Bibliography on Voluntary Compliance



Baughn, KT, B. Lippy, and R. Rogers. Have a Safer, Healthier Workplace Voluntarily. *Chemical Health and Safety* 2(5): 8-13 Sept/Oct 1995

Gibbs, R. Department of Energy Rewards Safe Contractors. *Safety and Health*. July 1995.

Kane, F. Maine 200-Type Programs Spread Throughout the U.S. *Job Safety & Health Quarterly*. 7(3): 9-15 Summer 1996.

Lawrence, K.L. Voluntary Protection Programs Praised for Accomplishments. *Job Safety & Health Quarterly*. 7(1):18-19 Fall/Winter 1995.

Peck, R.A. Palmetto Star: VPP the South Carolina Way. *Job Safety & Health Quarterly*. 7(3): 16-20 Summer 1996.

## Connected to the InterNet



(DOE-VPP related Sites)

**DOE-VPP • [www.eh.doe.gov/VPP](http://www.eh.doe.gov/VPP)**

**NDW (Naval District Washington)**

**[www.ndw.navy...\\_emppartchange.html](http://www.ndw.navy..._emppartchange.html)**

**OSHA VPP • [spider.osha.gov/oshprogs/VPP/](http://spider.osha.gov/oshprogs/VPP/)**

**Pantex**

**[www.pantex.com/ds/pxeshe.htm](http://www.pantex.com/ds/pxeshe.htm)**

**Allied Signal • [www.os.kcp.com/home/headline.html](http://www.os.kcp.com/home/headline.html)**

**VPPPA (Voluntary Protection Program Participants' Association)**

**[www.fiesta.com/vpppa](http://www.fiesta.com/vpppa)**